assistance for marketing or products produced by small units through larger Houses under their brand names.

Attacks on Indian Community in kuwait

e629. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a number of cases of attacks on Indian community particularly Hindus and Sikhs in Kuwait during the years 1992-93 and so far in 1994;

(b) what are the details of each of such cases;

(c) number of persons killed and injured and their properties, houses and shops burnt/destroyed during the above period;

(d) the extent of loss suffered by the Indians in Kuwait;

(e) what action Government have so far taken at diplomatic level; and

(f) what steps Government have so far taken for the safety of life and property of Indians in Kuwait and other Gulf countries and in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (f) (1) Since October, 1993, Government have received reports of the following five incidents involving Sikh members of the Indian community in Kuwait:—

(i) In October 1993, twenty Sikhs were detained by local police in Kuwait. They were later released. The reasons for their detention were not made known to the detainees.

(ii) On 3rd November, 1993 the dead body of an Indian national, Mr. Prithipal Singh was found by Khaitan Police in Kuwait.

(iii) On 23rd January, 1994 a car in which four Indian nationals were travelling was fired at on Amman Street in Salmia area in Kuwait resulting in the death of Mr. Manmohan Singh Anand and injury to two others.

(iv) A fire took place at A1 Mutawa and Sahni Tyre Company belonging to Mr. Mohinder Singh Sahni in Sharq Industrial area.

(v) On 10th February, 1994 Shri Devinder Singh Sachar was fired upon in his car on Mecca Street in Fahaheel area, Kuwait. However, Mr. Sachar escaped unhurt.

(2) The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait took up the matter at very senior levels with the Government of Kuwait including the Foreign Secretary, Secretary in the Ministry of Interior, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He conveyed the concern of the Indian community over the incidents and requested thorough investigations and measures to dispel the feeling of insecurity among the members of the Indian community. The Government of Kuwait expressed its own concern about the incidents and assured full investigations so that the culprits are traced and brought to justice. The Government of Kuwait also stated that it would take all steps to dispel any feeling of insecurity prevailing among the members of the Indian coummunity and adopt necessary measures so that such incidents do not recur.

(3) The Indian Ambassador has met leaders of the Indian community to inform them of the steps taken and has assured them of all necessary assistance.

(4) There have been no attacks on the members of Indian community in Kuwait after February 1994.

(5) The issue of safety of life and property of persons in foreign countries is primarily the concern of the host Governments. However, Government of India take up matters concerning the security of Indian nationals as

appropriate from time to time. There are at present no Indian nationals in Afghanistan.

Repair of Old Coaches

*630. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the old coaches which are dirty and unusable are put into service in all the trains of Punjab despite existence of new Railway Coaches Factory at Kapurthala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rectify the position?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF). (a) Old coaches which are dirty and unusable are not being put into service in trains of Punjab.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Concessions/facilities to CRPF/BSF Personnel

*631. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry issued a letter to all the State Governments on 30th June, 1983 for granting various concessions/facilities to the ex-servicemen of CRPF and BSF or their families;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some State Governments have not completed with the directions contained in the letter since its issuance,

(c) which are the States that have not complied with the directions; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to see that these States also abide by these directions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) The State Governments were addressed on 30.6.1983, requesting them to consider grant of various concessions/facilities to the ex-servicemen of the CRPF and their families, out of the state Govt.'s resources.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, as the letter issued to the State Govt. was in the nature of a request, seeking their help and support.

Schemes to Promote Afforestation in Rural areas

*632. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are schemes to promote afforestation in rural areas;

(b) whether Government are allotting Peramboke and Government lands for this purpose; and

(c) what is the programme to promote these schemes in villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Afforestation in rural areas is promoted through the tree planting activities carried out under the State Plan Schemes, externally-aided Forestry Projects and the Schemes of the Central Government like the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Fuelwood and Fodder Projects scheme, Minor Forest Produce Scheme, Integrated Wastelands development Projects scheme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, desert Development Programme, River Valley Projects Scheme, etc.

(b) The allotment of Poramboke and Government lands is done at the State level by the concerned state Governments and the question of the Government of India alloting such lands does not arise. However, plantations on Poramboke and